

Jim Horn

2003 session survey**How you can reach me...**

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Senate committee
assignments:

- Highways and
Transportation, chair
- Higher Education
- Government Operations
and Elections

Dear Friends,

On January 13, the 2003 Legislature begins its scheduled 105-day session. While every session is predicted to be "busy and important," the upcoming session will indeed be very crucial to Washington.

There are some monumental problems that legislators and the governor must address:

- The state budget now has a projected shortfall of \$2 billion. Long gone are the days when the state had tons of money coming in and \$1 billion in reserve.
- Washington's economy continues to be in recession, although recent figures indicate that we've already hit rock bottom. The state's unemployment rate has been first or second nationally throughout the past year, with about 197,000 Washington residents out of work as of October.
- Health care and prescription drug costs continue to steadily climb, making it harder for many people to afford needed treatment.
- Our state's public colleges and universities are seeing greater enrollment demand as the "baby boom echo" reaches college age and many dislocated workers enter college to learn new job skills. Yet, the state's budget problems have meant less funding for our higher education system at a time when it greatly needs more financial help.
- The resounding defeat of Referendum 51 ("the gas tax measure") by Washington voters sends the Legislature back to the drawing board as it tries to find a way to pay for needed highway and other transportation projects necessary to maintain our economic base and quality of life while also assuring citizens that they are getting the most out of their tax dollars.

While it promises to be a tough session, it is our job as legislators to do our best to resolve these important issues. That's what you expect us to do when you send us to Olympia.

As session approaches, I need your help. It is very important for me to understand your concerns and thoughts on these issues. So please take a few minutes to review, complete and return this survey to me. Your opinion on issues has been very helpful and valuable over the years. I plan to share the results of this questionnaire with my 41st District colleagues, Rep. Fred Jarrett and Rep.-elect Judy Clibborn.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the issues before us or if you have a question or problem with state government. If you have an idea for legislation, please share it with me. You can send me a message via the toll-free Legislative Hotline, or you can contact my Olympia office directly via mail, phone or e-mail.

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your state senator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Horn". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and a trailing flourish.

Sen. Jim Horn

Shade Circles like this ● Not like this ☑ ☒
Please do not write inside the margins.

Please write any additional comments ONLY on back.

1. Which of the following issues do you feel are most important for the Legislature to address during the 2003 session? (Please rank according to importance, with "1" being the most important, "2" being the next important, and so on.)

	Voter 1										Voter 2									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. Colleges and universities	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
B. Drugs and crime	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
C. Economy and jobs	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
D. Environment	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
E. Growth management	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
F. Health care	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
G. Public schools	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
H. Social issues	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
I. Taxes	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
J. Transportation	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Budget

2. In 2003, the Legislature faces some tough choices regarding the state budget because of its projected \$2 billion shortfall. What should the Legislature do about the budget?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ○ | ○ | A. Raise taxes to maintain existing spending levels for state services |
| ○ | ○ | B. Make across-the-board spending cuts in state services |
| ○ | ○ | C. Make spending reductions in nonessential areas to minimize cuts in important state services |
| ○ | ○ | D. Privatize many state services to help reduce spending |

3. In 2000, Washington voters approved Initiative 728, which provides funding for smaller classroom sizes, and I-732, which gives K-12 teachers automatic salary increases. Because the two measures didn't create a specific funding source for them, they are funded by the state's general fund. The expected combined costs of the two education initiatives for the next two years is \$1 billion. What should the Legislature do about the two education initiatives in light of the state's budget problem?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ○ | ○ | A. Leave I-728 and I-732 alone and look elsewhere to fix the budget problem |
| ○ | ○ | B. Freeze the teacher pay raises under I-732 for a year or two until the state's budget outlook is good again, as is being done with state employees' salaries |
| ○ | ○ | C. Place both I-728 and I-732 before Washington voters in 2003, this time with dedicated funding sources for them and see if they will support both measures (this could mean a tax increase) |
| ○ | ○ | D. Have the Legislature reduce or modify spending mandates called for by approved initiatives when there is a serious state budget problem |

4. Should we re-enact the state spending limit that was created in 1993 when Washington voters passed Initiative 601 (which limits growth in the general fund budget to increases in population and inflation without a supermajority vote of the Legislature)?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| ○ | ○ | A. Yes |
| ○ | ○ | B. No |

Education

5. School districts across the state use the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) exam to test fourth, seventh and 10th grade students in math, reading, writing and listening skills. Should individual students, their parents and their teachers be allowed to see the WASL exam results?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| ○ | ○ | A. Yes |
| ○ | ○ | B. No |

6. Gov. Locke recently proposed eliminating the listening section of the WASL, along with sections on art, health, P.E. and social studies that were scheduled to begin in 2008. Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson opposes eliminating any future part of the WASL. What do you think?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ○ | ○ | A. Eliminate the listening section, as well as the upcoming sections on art, health, P.E. and social studies |
| ○ | ○ | B. Keep the listening section, but eliminate the art, health, P.E. and social studies sections |
| ○ | ○ | C. Don't eliminate any sections of the WASL |

7. There are more people seeking access into colleges and universities in Washington than available enrollment slots. Should the state's colleges and universities be allowed to raise tuition so they can meet growing enrollment demand and continue to provide a high-quality education to students?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| ○ | ○ | A. Yes |
| ○ | ○ | B. No |

8. Because of the tighter access to our state's higher education system, different ideas are being explored to create more available enrollment slots. Which of the following ideas appeals to you? (Mark all that apply.)

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ○ | ○ | A. Create incentives to encourage full-time students to graduate within four years |
| ○ | ○ | B. Create disincentives for full-time students who take five years or longer to graduate |
| ○ | ○ | C. Require students to pay all or a greater share of the costs for their remedial education courses |
| ○ | ○ | D. College courses not directly related to a student's graduation requirements should be paid for by that student instead of being subsidized by taxpayers |
| ○ | ○ | E. Expand the Running Start program that allows certain high school students to take courses that earn them both high school and college credits |

Transportation

9. Leaders in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties are expected to create a regional transportation project and funding plan and place it on the ballot in 2003. Based on what you know about what might be included in such a proposal, how do you feel about the upcoming regional plan?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| ○ | ○ | A. I very likely will support it |
| ○ | ○ | B. I probably will support it |
| ○ | ○ | C. I probably will oppose it |
| ○ | ○ | D. I very likely will oppose it |
| ○ | ○ | E. Don't know yet |

10. Since Referendum 51 wasn't approved by Washington voters, what should the Legislature do to address the state's transportation problems? (Check all that apply.)

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Send a modified statewide transportation plan to Washington voters in 2003 |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Pass a modified plan in Olympia (voters would have the chance to turn such a plan into a statewide referendum, allowing them to have the final say) |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Approve Tim Eyman's proposed initiative (I-267) that would earmark sales tax revenue for automobile purchases for state highway needs |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Do nothing |

11. A recent Elway Research poll showed that 84 percent of R-51 supporters and 66 percent of R-51 opponents agreed there is a need to raise taxes to fix transportation infrastructure problems. If the Legislature passed a modified statewide transportation plan, which form of taxes would you favor? (Please rank in order of importance to you, with "1" being most important.)

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | A. Impose a gas tax increase of no more than 5-8 cents a gallon |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Impose a gas tax increase of no more than 1-4 cents a gallon |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Impose up to a 1 percent sales tax on new and used vehicle purchases |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Impose up to a 30 percent increase in the weight fee for commercial trucks |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | E. Focus a greater percentage of funding for roads |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | F. Focus a greater percentage of funding for transit |

12. Should other regions of the state be authorized to craft and vote on funding measures to address their own transportation problems, as the Central Puget Sound region likely will do in 2003?

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. No |

13. Which of the following do you agree with the most?

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Transportation is a statewide problem. We all have to contribute to improving transportation in Washington state. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. My community/region wouldn't benefit enough from the state transportation plan (R-51) to justify raising the gas tax in Washington. Instead of focusing on a statewide transportation solution, we should focus on allowing regions to address their own transportation problems. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. We need a statewide transportation funding foundation, plus the ability for regions to address their own transportation problems. |

Health care

14. What should be done to reduce health care costs to employers and individuals? What should be done to address other problems of access to affordable health care insurance? (Please rank the following options in order of those you would accept and support in your own health insurance plan or with regard to your use of health care services, with "1" being the one you would most like to see happen.)

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 | A. I would be willing to accept access to fewer health benefits for lower monthly insurance costs. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. I would be willing to pay a percentage of the cost of service at the time the service is received in trade for overall lower monthly insurance costs. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. I would accept some limitations on the array of health care providers (such as massage therapists and orthopedists) that I have access to in exchange for lower health care costs. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. I would be willing to allow my employer to determine which benefits are covered in the health insurance it provides. This option could include reducing or repealing current legislatively mandated coverage in health insurance coverage. The goal would be to reduce costs and increase the variety of health plans available to employers for their employees. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | E. I would be willing to encourage primary care doctors and specialists to stay in our state and contract to provide medical services under all insurance plans, and provide incentives for higher reimbursement to these providers rather than increasing my health and medical benefits/coverage. |

15. How concerned are you about the rising cost of prescription drugs?

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Very concerned |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Somewhat concerned |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Not concerned |

16. What should the state do to address increasing cost of prescription drugs? (Please rank the following in order of importance to you, with "1" being the one you would most like to see happen.)

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | A. Limit my choice of drugs to the most cost-effective medicines that are essentially equivalent to more expensive advertised brand name drugs. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Create incentives for doctors to prescribe these more cost-effective medicines, with discounts negotiated by the state and passed along to me. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Create a program to increase the number of low- and moderate-income seniors without prescription drug coverage who are eligible for prescription drug coverage under Medicaid. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Do nothing at the state level, and let the federal government deal with the issue. |

Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.



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Sen. Jim Horn
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Olympia, WA 98504-0441



Survey enclosed from Senator Jim Horn Please respond immediately

If you could take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and mail it to me, I'll have a better understanding of the issues affecting you, your family and our district. When you have filled out the survey, please fold so the mailing address is facing out, affix a first-class stamp and mail it to me. Thanks.

Comments:

Your e-mail address (optional): _____

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